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quarrel with Mr. Reade for some of the strokes of his pencil in painting his female portraits. It seems an axiom with him, that no woman ever moves in a straight line, and that dissimulation is her native element. If this is true, there is no harm in saying it; but it must needs be *very* true to win general assent. The Preface informs us that we may expect to meet the same characters again by and by in more exciting scenes, and this introduction will, no doubt, prepare for the coming volume a large number of readers. We shall be glad to see our friend Lucy in all her matronly dignity as "Mrs. David Dodd."

6. — *Le Niger et les Explorations de l'Afrique Centrale depuis Mungo Park jusqu'au Docteur Barth.* Par FERDINAND DE LANOYE. Paris: Hachette. 1858. 12mo. pp. 620.

M. LANOYE, well known as a writer of geographical articles in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, has here brought together, in a condensed form, the substance of the chief adventures and discoveries in Central and Western Africa. His difficult work is very skilfully done; and we cannot discover that any important fact has been omitted from the volumes which he has abridged. He begins with Herodotus, continues with Mungo Park in both his journeys, with Denham, Oudney, Clapperton, Caillié, the brothers Lander, Richardson, Overweg, and Barth, and ends with the voyage of the steamer *Pleiade* up the Niger in 1854. The smaller works of the missionaries — Bowen, Wilson, and the rest — are not noticed; and Dr. Livingstone's travels were too far south to come into the plan of the work. A considerable portion of the narrative, especially in the case of Mungo Park, is in the words of the various travellers; but M. Lanoye has not scrupled to add such remarks of his own as might help to elucidate the text from which he has quoted. His critical views are of great value; and the map which accompanies his volume is superior to any which we have seen appended to American editions of African travel.

M. Lanoye does full justice to the merits of that too much neglected traveller, Richard Lander. But the chapter of his volume which will have most novelty to English readers describes the journey of the Frenchman, René Caillié, in the years 1826–28. In a letter to the French Geographical Society in 1856, Dr. Barth emphatically vindicated the honor of this calumniated martyr of science, declaring that no other traveller could, under similar circumstances, have accomplished so much. Beginning with only sixty francs and a resolute will, in spite of official rebuffs, vexatious delays, and obstacles of every kind thrown

in his way, Caillié was able to penetrate into the interior of the great kingdoms of the Soudan, to find the sources of the Senegal, to cross the Niger farther inland than it had been crossed before, to visit Timbuctoo, and, after two years of wandering and romantic adventure, to reach France in safety, and to give an intelligent narrative of his discoveries. Alone and unaided, he accomplished a work which the British government, after having spent £700,000, was compelled to relinquish as a failure. It is evidently a pleasure to M. Lanoye that a countryman of his own should have been the hero of a journey so hazardous, so romantic, and so successful.

7.—*La Famille Buvard, Scènes de Mœurs Bruxelloises.* Par LOUIS HYMANS. Bruxelles et Leipzig: Auguste Schnée. 1858. 18mo. 2 vols. pp. 516.

WHO M. Louis Hymans is we are unable to say, never having met his name before on the title-page of any volume. But the grace and charm of this novel of the "Buvard Family" will make us eager to welcome any new work from the pen of so accomplished a writer. He attempts in this story to delineate life in Brussels, to exhibit the style of morals, trade, society, and politics in that reduced copy of Paris, to show its gayeties and gravities, its worth and its meanness. M. Desiré Buvard, the head of the notable family, is the type of the selfish, ambitious, able, and unscrupulous *parvenu*, who raises himself from obscure birth to high office in the state, accumulates property, keeps up appearances, and is afraid of nothing but public opinion and the tongue of slander. His wife is a weak, vain, but affectionate woman, fond of her children, but without force enough to resist her husband's imperious will. The son, Athanase, is a scatter-brained, extravagant youth, good-hearted enough, but careless and fashionably dissolute. Of the two daughters, Claire is like her father, with more malignity of temper, and Bertha like her mother, with more force of character. Uncle Theophilus, the mother's brother, is an honest and eccentric blunderer, noble in his impulses, but not wise in his plans. Ernest Prunier, the young lawyer, who becomes the husband of Bertha, is shrewd, talented, persevering, proud of his humble origin, sincere in his intercourse, and rises not by intrigue, but by his own ability. The noble Count de Bornhem and his son represent the busy statesman and the elegant man of leisure, both cultivated and honorable, yet utterly alien from each other in their tastes and habits. Peperberg is the type of the old soldier, grim in manners, rigid in discipline, and slow in ideas, yet frank and faithful.